



PATENT

In re Application of

Hiroyuki OTSUKA

Patent Art Unit: 3682

Serial No.: 10/811,914

Filed: March 30, 2004

For: **INLINE AUTOMATIC/MANUAL SHIFTER**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In accordance with MPEP 609 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant brings the references listed on the attached PTO-1449-Form to the Examiner's attention and requests that they be considered and made of record in this application. Copies of the non-U.S. patents are attached. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of this application. Thus, ***no fee is believed to be due for this Information Disclosure Statement.*** However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1836. A duplicate copy of this Statement is enclosed for that purpose.

Since this application was filed after June 30, 2003, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office waives the requirement under 37 C.F.R. 1.98 (a) (2) (i) for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. Patent and each U.S. patent application publication.

* * *

Prompt examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Tarnoff
Reg. No. 32,383

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/811,914
Filing Date	March 30, 2004
First Named Inventor	Hiroyuki OTSUKA
Group Art Unit	3682
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	NT-US045041

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 5,187,999-B	02-23-1993	Kobayashi et al.	
		US- 5,197,344-B	03-30-1993	Maier et al.	
		US- 5,946,976-B	09-07-1999	Miyoshi et al.	
		US- 6,053,066-B	04-25-2000	Ishii et al.	
		US- 6,080,083-B	06-27-2000	Nishino	
		US- 6,089,118-B	07-18-2000	Ishii et al.	
		US- 6,401,564-B1	06-11-2002	Lee	
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		US- 6,568,294-B2	05-27-2003	Jezewski	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		JP-11-34684-A	02-09-1999	Miyoshi et al.		Yes
		JP-11-34685-A	02-09-1999	Miyoshi et al.		Yes

Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04.

³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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